REBUILD GREEN 2030

Operational Framework for Hackathons

Rules, Cycles, Selection Procedure and Acceleration Pathway
2024-2030 Edition

Prepared as a companion operational document to the REBUILD GREEN 2030 Programme Work Programme

Document status: Confirmed version for publication. This document defines the operational logic of REBUILD GREEN 2030 hackathons and their connection to project acceleration, grant readiness, implementation pathways and international consortium cooperation.

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1. Introduction and Purpose of the Framework

This Operational Framework defines the rules, cycles, selection procedure and acceleration pathway for hackathons conducted within the REBUILD GREEN 2030 programme.

The hackathons are not stand-alone idea competitions. They are a structured programme instrument designed to transform municipal recovery needs and territorial development challenges into project concepts that can be further accelerated, consolidated into consortia and prepared for donor, grant, investment or international cooperation opportunities.

The framework applies to all REBUILD GREEN 2030 hackathon cycles from 2024 to 2030. It may be updated by the programme organisers to reflect changes in donor requirements, partner commitments, municipal needs, applicable funding windows or international cooperation priorities.

2. Programme Logic: Hackathons as an Implementation Instrument

REBUILD GREEN 2030 was created to scale new approaches to reconstruction through bio-based materials, eco-technologies, circular construction and participatory territorial development. Particular attention is given to prefabricated straw-panel construction and other regenerative, affordable and locally adaptable building solutions.

Within this logic, each hackathon is not a stand-alone idea competition. It is the first stage of a longer project-development pathway: identifying municipal challenges, forming interdisciplinary teams, developing concepts, presenting them at Demo Day, selecting the strongest projects, and supporting them through acceleration, grant-readiness, consortium formation and future implementation.

The final goal is to help selected solutions move from concept to pilot recovery projects, long-term cooperation and further scaling.

3. Evolution of the Hackathon Model: Three Cycles

The REBUILD GREEN 2030 hackathon model evolves through three interconnected cycles. Each cycle has a different level of maturity and a different strategic task.

Cycle	Period	Strategic Function	Operational Focus
Cycle I	2024-2026	Proof of Concept	Testing the online urban hackathon as a practical tool for connecting Ukrainian municipal recovery needs with professional, academic and technical expertise. The first cycle validated the model and created the foundation for post-hackathon implementation cooperation.
Cycle II	2026-2028	Recovering the Future / HPF Framework	Moving from a pilot format to a structured territorial development and project acceleration framework, with selected professional profiles, municipal challenges, accelerator support and funding-readiness pathway.
Cycle III	2028-2030	International Consortium Challenges	Identifying challenges with potential for international consortium cooperation, projects in Ukraine and other countries, and alignment with NEB Facility and other EU/international funding calls.

3.1 Cycle I: Proof of Concept / First Hackathon

The first hackathon cycle functioned as a proof of concept. Its main purpose was to test whether an online urban hackathon could serve as a practical instrument for connecting municipal recovery needs with professional and academic expertise, bio-based construction approaches and post-hackathon project implementation commitments.

The first cycle used an open participation model. Registration was made available to potential participants, and all registered participants were invited to join. Teams were formed during the hackathon itself, based on participants' competencies, interests and the specific challenge they chose to work on.

All participants agreed to the hackathon rules and accepted the obligation to contribute, within one year after the hackathon, to the implementation pathway of the winning project. After the winner was selected, the consortium was to be formalised through a consortium agreement or similar cooperation instrument.

Cycle I created the methodological foundation for the next stages of REBUILD GREEN 2030.

3.2 Cycle II: Recovering the Future (HPF Framework) / Structured Recovery Pipeline

The second cycle represents a transition from an open proof-of-concept format to a more structured framework connected to Recovering the Future and HPF. The focus shifts from testing the format to building project pipelines for territorial development, municipal recovery and acceleration.

In this cycle, the call for participants leads to a pool of applications reviewed by an expert commission. Only relevant professional profiles are selected for participation in the hackathon where they can be combined into working teams with the potential to enter the acceleration phase and form implementation-oriented partnerships.

The second cycle places stronger emphasis on municipal challenge briefs, facilitation, mentorship, feasibility, partner roles and preparation for donor, grant or investment pathways.

3.3 Cycle III: International Consortium Challenges

The third cycle adds a distinct internationalisation objective. Its task is to identify challenges and project concepts that can generate international consortium cooperation, including projects that may be implemented not only in Ukraine but also in other partner countries.

This cycle will prioritise challenge briefs that can be translated into international grant, donor or research-and-innovation applications, including opportunities connected to the New European Bauhaus Facility and other relevant European and global programmes.

Participants not selected for a hackathon may remain in the programme reserve and may later be invited to join consortia when specific grant calls, project applications or international cooperation opportunities require additional competencies.

4. Institutional Architecture and Roles

The hackathon framework is delivered through a distributed institutional architecture combining programme governance, municipal engagement, professional facilitation, grant-readiness support, advisory expertise and partner contributions.

Actor	Role in the Hackathon Framework
FIABCI-Ukraine	Programme co-owner and institutional platform. Provides strategic governance, international network access, public-sector engagement, expert mobilisation and programme continuity.
FIABCI-Ukraine Grant Office and Accelerator	Dedicated structure created to support project development, grant readiness, consortium building, preparation of applications and follow-up after the hackathon.
FIABCI-Ukraine Council of Communities	Continues expanding the number of public-sector representatives, developing a network of potential challengers, municipal partners and public-sector participants.
SYNCHRO SPACE	Program co-owner and operational delivery partner responsible for the programme development, hackathon organization, participatory methodology, co-creation, troubleshooting, facilitation, mentoring panel and jury coordination and support to teams.
Rebuild Green Advisory Board / Jury	International advisory and evaluation body composed of experts from Ukraine, Europe and other countries representing institutional capacity, finance and grant sectors, business communities, NGOs, real estate, construction, green development, environmental and social development.
Municipal partners / challenge owners	Public-sector partners presenting territorial or recovery challenges, providing data and local context, participating in co-creation and committing to post-hackathon cooperation.
Academic, academy and alumni partners	Partners supporting continuity of knowledge, expert mentoring, student and young professional engagement, research-based inputs and long-term talent development.
Sponsors and donors	Partners that may support organisation, acceleration, technical assistance, scholarships, mentoring, visibility, project preparation and/or future implementation funding.

5. Challenge Pipeline and Municipal Partner Selection

The hackathon begins before the public call to participants. It starts with the identification and structuring of municipal and territorial challenges that can be transformed into hackathon briefs.

5.1 Sources of Challenges

Challenges may come from municipalities, territorial communities, public-sector institutions, recovery agencies, programme partners, expert networks or previously identified needs within the REBUILD GREEN 2030 programme.

The FIABCI-Ukraine Council of Communities plays a key role in enlarging the network of public-sector representatives and identifying municipalities that are ready to act as challengers or municipal partners.

5.2 Municipal Eligibility

A municipality or public-sector partner may be considered eligible where it has a clearly identifiable territorial, infrastructural, social or environmental challenge; demonstrates readiness to cooperate; provides access to relevant data; and is willing to participate in the hackathon, Demo Day and post-hackathon acceleration pathway.

Priority may be given to challenges that demonstrate strong public interest, relevance to green reconstruction, potential use of bio-based or circular solutions, community impact, feasibility, replicability and potential for donor, grant or consortium cooperation.

5.3 Challenge Brief Development

Selected municipal challenges are converted into challenge briefs. Each brief should define the local context, core problem, available data, expected direction of solution, relevant constraints, stakeholders, potential implementation site, social impact and connection to REBUILD GREEN 2030 values.

Challenge briefs should be sufficiently open to allow innovation but sufficiently structured to enable teams to produce realistic and comparable outputs during the hackathon.

6. Participant Eligibility and Selection Procedure

The participant selection procedure differs between the proof-of-concept cycle and the subsequent structured cycles.

6.1 First Hackathon: Open Registration Model

During the first hackathon, the participation model was open. Registration was announced, and all registered participants were invited to participate in the hackathon process.

Participants agreed to the rules of the hackathon and accepted the principle that the winning project would be taken into a post-hackathon implementation pathway. Teams were formed during the hackathon itself, based on participant interests, competencies and challenge needs.

Following the selection of the winner, the relevant participants, municipal partner and programme stakeholders were expected to proceed towards a consortium agreement or similar cooperation arrangement. Participants accepted the obligation to work towards the implementation of the winning project during the year following the hackathon, subject to the availability of partners, resources, funding and legal arrangements.

6.2 Subsequent Hackathons: Professional Selection Model

Starting from the second cycle, the programme applies a more selective model. A public or targeted call is announced, a pool of applications is formed, and applications are reviewed by an expert commission appointed by the programme organisers.

The expert commission selects only those applicants whose professional, academic, technical or institutional profiles are relevant to the announced challenges and suitable for integration into working teams with acceleration potential.

The purpose of selection is not to exclude motivated participants, but to ensure that the hackathon teams have sufficient professional capacity to develop concepts that can later become grant-ready, donor-ready, investment-ready or consortium-ready projects.

Applicants who are not selected for participation in the hackathon remain in the REBUILD GREEN 2030 programme reserve. They may later be invited to join working groups, expert pools, mentoring panels or consortia when specific project applications, grant calls or implementation needs require their competencies.

Selection Criterion	Description
Professional relevance	Education, experience or demonstrated capacity in architecture, urban planning, engineering, construction, sustainability, finance, social innovation, public policy, project management, municipal development or other relevant fields.
Challenge fit	Clear connection between the applicant's profile and one or more published challenge briefs.
Team potential	Ability to work in interdisciplinary and international teams under time constraints.

Acceleration potential	Capacity to contribute to project development after the hackathon, including feasibility, grant readiness or implementation planning.
Values alignment	Commitment to REBUILD GREEN 2030 principles, including bio-based and circular reconstruction, inclusion, participation, transparency and long-term public value.
International cooperation potential	For the third cycle, relevance to international consortium building, NEB Facility opportunities or comparable programmes.

7. Hackathon Process and Delivery Model

The hackathon process is organised as an online or hybrid marathon of co-creation, mentoring and project development. The default process is described below and may be adjusted for each cycle.

Stage	Process Step	Main Output
1	**Call for municipalities / challenges**	Identification of public-sector partners and development of challenge pipeline.
2	**Selection of municipal challenges**	Review of local relevance, feasibility and alignment with programme values.
3	**Preparation of challenge briefs**	Structuring of problem statements, data, context and expected outputs.
4	**Call for participants**	Public or targeted invitation to companies, professionals, students, experts and organisations.
5	**Expert review of applications**	Selection of relevant profiles for participation and reserve pool formation.
6	**Team formation**	Combination of selected participants into interdisciplinary working teams.
7	**Hackathon marathon**	Facilitated online process of co-creation, mentoring, reviews and troubleshooting.
8	**Final submission**	Submission of project concepts, implementation logic and presentation materials.
9	**Demo Day**	Presentation to jury, advisory board, municipalities, partners and invited stakeholders.
10	**Announcement of winners**	Selection of winning projects and publication of results.
11	**Acceleration**	One-year project development, grant-readiness and consortium pathway for selected winners.

7.1 Role of SYNCHRO SPACE in Delivery

SYNCHRO SPACE acts as the programme co-owner and operational delivery partner for the hackathon process.

Its role is to ensure that the hackathon works not only as an event, but as a structured co-creation and project-development process. SYNCHRO SPACE is responsible for programme design, participatory methodology, facilitation, team-support logic, mentoring coordination, troubleshooting and the organisation of key working sessions during the online hackathon marathon.

SYNCHRO SPACE also supports the connection between municipalities, participants, mentors, experts, academic communities and implementation partners. This helps ensure that teams work with real municipal needs, receive relevant professional guidance and develop solutions with practical potential beyond the Hackathon.

Through this role, SYNCHRO SPACE contributes to the continuity of the REBUILD GREEN 2030 methodology — from challenge framing and team formation to Demo Day, acceleration, consortium-building and preparation for implementation.

8. Rules for Participants

All participants must agree to the hackathon rules before being admitted to the working process. Acceptance of the rules is a condition of participation.

Participants are expected to act in good faith, respect the co-creation process, contribute their expertise, follow the facilitation structure, respect deadlines, disclose conflicts of interest and avoid presenting materials that infringe the rights of third parties.

Participants acknowledge that the hackathon is a project-generation and acceleration instrument. Participation does not guarantee funding, employment, contract award, authorship exclusivity or automatic inclusion in a future consortium.

Participants selected into winning teams are expected to participate in the post-hackathon acceleration pathway, unless otherwise agreed with the programme organisers. In the first cycle, participants committed to support the implementation pathway of the winning project during the year following the hackathon. In subsequent cycles, the commitment is linked to acceleration, grant readiness, consortium formation and future project development.

Rule	Operational Meaning
Respect for public interest	Solutions must be developed for the benefit of the municipality, community and programme values.
Transparency	Participants must provide accurate information in applications and disclose affiliations relevant to the challenge.
Collaboration	Teams must work in a cooperative and interdisciplinary manner.
Data responsibility	Municipal and project data must be used only for hackathon and programme purposes, unless otherwise authorised.
No funding guarantee	Winning or participating does not create an automatic right to funding.
Post-hackathon cooperation	Selected winners may be invited to acceleration and consortium-building processes.

9. Commitments of Municipalities and Challenge Owners

Municipalities and other challenge owners enter the hackathon not as passive beneficiaries but as active partners in a co-creation process. Their commitment is essential for the quality, relevance and feasibility of the resulting project concepts.

A municipality or challenge owner should designate a responsible contact person, provide available data, explain local constraints, participate in briefing and mentoring moments, support teams with clarifications and remain available for post-hackathon discussions with the winning team and programme accelerator.

Municipalities that bring projects to the hackathon should confirm their willingness to consider the winning concept for further development, subject to legal, financial, technical and political feasibility. Where a project proceeds to acceleration, the municipality may be asked to sign a memorandum, letter of support, consortium agreement or other cooperation document.

Stage	Municipal Commitment
Before the hackathon	Provide challenge information, site context, strategic priorities, available data and responsible contact point.
During the hackathon	Participate in briefings, answer team questions, validate assumptions and engage in co-creation.
At Demo Day	Attend or delegate representation, listen to proposed concepts and provide feedback.
After selection	Cooperate with the accelerator, provide letters or documents where appropriate, and support consortium or grant-readiness steps.
During acceleration	Remain available for technical, administrative and strategic clarification and support the preparation of funding applications where relevant.

10. Jury, Advisory Board and Evaluation Procedure

The jury is primarily formed from the Rebuild Green Advisory Board community and invited experts from different countries in Europe and the world. The jury represents institutional capacity, finance and grant sectors, business communities, public and civil society organisations, and professional communities in real estate, construction, green development, environmental development and social development.

The jury evaluates the final submissions presented during Demo Day. The composition of the jury may vary by cycle depending on the types of challenges, available expertise, funding priorities and international cooperation opportunities.

The organisers may invite additional observers, donors, sponsors, municipal representatives and expert advisors. Observers may provide comments but do not necessarily hold voting rights unless expressly designated by the organisers.

11. Winners, Acceleration and Funding/Grant-Readiness Pathway

Winning the hackathon is the beginning of a structured acceleration pathway, not the end of the process. The selected projects are developed further through the FIABCI-Ukraine Grant Office and Accelerator with the support of programme partners, mentors, municipalities and potential consortium members.

The acceleration phase is designed to transform a hackathon concept into a more mature project package suitable for grant, donor, investment or international consortium consideration. This may include feasibility development, stakeholder mapping, budget logic, implementation roadmap, impact framework, legal structure, partner roles and application strategy.

Depending on the cycle, up to three winning projects may be selected for acceleration. The organisers may also recognise special mentions or reserve projects if they demonstrate strong potential but require additional development before entering acceleration.

Acceleration Component	Purpose
Concept consolidation	Clarification of the core solution, problem statement, site logic and intended impact.
Municipal validation	Further work with the municipality or challenge owner to confirm feasibility and local relevance.
Partner mapping	Identification of technical, academic, financial, implementation and communication partners.
Consortium design	Definition of roles, responsibilities, lead applicant, beneficiaries, associated partners and possible third-party roles.
Funding / Grant-readiness package	Development of narrative, work packages, impact logic, budget assumptions and supporting documents.
Funding strategy	Matching the project with donor programmes, grant calls, investment platforms or international cooperation opportunities.

12. Consortium Formation and Legal Arrangements

Where a winning project proceeds to acceleration or grant application, the organisers may initiate a consortium-building process. The consortium may include the municipality, team members, FIABCI-Ukraine, SYNCHRO SPACE, technical partners, academic partners, material producers, donors, sponsors, implementation partners and international organisations.

The form of legal arrangement may depend on the funding opportunity and implementation pathway. It may include a memorandum of understanding, consortium agreement, partnership agreement, letter of intent, letter of support, grant consortium documentation or other legally appropriate instrument.

In the first cycle, consortium signature followed the selection of the winner. In later cycles, consortium formation becomes part of the acceleration and grant-readiness pathway. The exact composition of the consortium may be adjusted as the project matures and as specific grant or donor requirements become known.

13. Internationalisation and NEB Facility Alignment

From the third cycle onward, the hackathon framework introduces a stronger international consortium logic. The programme will seek to identify challenge briefs and project concepts that can be developed not only for Ukrainian municipalities but also through cooperation with partner cities, regions and organisations in other countries.

The programme may use hackathons to generate or refine project concepts suitable for New European Bauhaus Facility calls and other European or international programmes. This includes challenges related to sustainable and beautiful buildings, bio-based and circular materials, offsite modular construction components, public space, territorial development, social infrastructure, climate resilience, soil and nature-positive solutions, community investment models and future-oriented neighbourhood planning.

Internationalisation does not replace the Ukrainian recovery mission of REBUILD GREEN 2030. It expands it by positioning Ukraine as an active contributor to European and global green reconstruction knowledge, not only as a beneficiary of support.

14. Communication, Visibility and Knowledge Management

Each hackathon cycle should include a communication and visibility plan covering the call announcement, participating municipalities, selected teams, mentors, jury members, Demo Day, winners and acceleration outcomes.

The programme may publish challenge briefs, selected outputs, summaries, visual materials, lessons learned and impact stories, subject to applicable consent, confidentiality, intellectual property and municipal restrictions.

Programme events, including URC side events, Rebuild Ukraine events, Demo Days, partner meetings and international presentations, may be used to consolidate the community around REBUILD GREEN 2030 values and to present the progress of hackathon-generated projects.

15. Ethics, Transparency and Non-Guarantee Provisions

The hackathon process should be conducted with transparency, fairness, respect for public interest and avoidance of conflicts of interest. Members of the jury and expert commission should disclose any material conflict related to teams, municipalities or project proposals under evaluation.

The organisers reserve the right to modify the calendar, format, number of selected participants, number of winners, composition of the mentor panel, jury procedure or acceleration pathway where required by programme needs, donor conditions, security conditions, force majeure or changes in available resources.

Participation in the hackathon, selection as a finalist or winning the hackathon does not guarantee grant funding, donor support, investment, procurement, employment, implementation contract or future consortium participation. All follow-up actions depend on feasibility, partner commitments, legal arrangements and availability of funding.

16. Indicative Calendar 2024-2030

Period	Milestone
2024	Launch of REBUILD GREEN 2030 and first hackathon cycle as proof of concept.
2024-2025	Planning and development of the first winning project; post-hackathon implementation pathway and consortium logic.
Nov 2025-Jun 2026	Preparation of the second iteration under the Recovering the Future / HPF framework.
Jun 2026	Launch of the second iteration and announcement of selected municipalities at URC2026; call to hackathon participants.
3-24 Oct 2026	Online hackathon marathon.
31 Oct 2026	Demo Day.
12 Nov 2026	Announcement of results at Rebuild Ukraine.
2026-2027	Acceleration of three winning projects and preparation for grant, donor or investment applications.
By end 2027	Submission of grant applications or equivalent funding/consortium proposals where relevant.
By Jun 2028	Receipt of results and signature or consolidation of consortium arrangements where applicable.
Jul 2028	Reporting of results at URC2028 and announcement of the 2028-2030 iteration.
Oct 2028	Third-cycle hackathon focused also on international consortium challenges.
Nov 2028	Announcement of third-cycle results.
2028-2029	Acceleration of three winning projects, with emphasis on international consortium and NEB Facility alignment.
By Jun 2030	Target date for securing funding or equivalent implementation support for accelerated projects.
URC 2030	Programme-level reporting on results.
Nov 2030	Final Demo Day at Rebuild Ukraine 2030 presenting outcomes of the full REBUILD GREEN 2030 hackathon programme.

Annex I. Indicative Scoring Grid

Criterion	Indicative Weight (%)	Notes
Municipal relevance and problem definition	15	Weights may be adjusted for each hackathon cycle depending on the nature of the challenges.
Sustainability, circularity and bio-based potential	15	Weights may be adjusted for each hackathon cycle depending on the nature of the challenges.
Feasibility and implementation logic	15	Weights may be adjusted for each hackathon cycle depending on the nature of the challenges.
Social impact, inclusion and community value	15	Weights may be adjusted for each hackathon cycle depending on the nature of the challenges.
Spatial, architectural and territorial quality	10	Weights may be adjusted for each hackathon cycle depending on the nature of the challenges.
Financial, donor or grant-readiness potential	10	Weights may be adjusted for each hackathon cycle depending on the nature of the challenges.
Scalability and replicability	10	Weights may be adjusted for each hackathon cycle depending on the nature of the challenges.
Team capacity and post-hackathon commitment	10	Weights may be adjusted for each hackathon cycle depending on the nature of the challenges.

Annex II. Participant Declaration - Key Points

By joining the hackathon, the participant confirms that all information submitted in the application is accurate; they accept the hackathon rules; they agree to work in an interdisciplinary co-creation process; they acknowledge that the hackathon does not guarantee funding; and they are willing to participate in post-hackathon acceleration if selected as part of a winning team.

The participant also confirms that the materials they submit do not knowingly infringe third-party rights and that any use of municipal or confidential information will follow the instructions of the organisers and challenge owners.

Annex III. Municipal Commitment Checklist

- Designated municipal contact person is appointed.
- Challenge brief and available data are provided before the hackathon.
- Municipal representatives participate in briefing and review moments.
- Municipality provides feedback during or after Demo Day.
- Municipality confirms willingness to explore acceleration of the winning concept.
- Municipality is ready to provide letters of support or consortium documents where legally and practically possible.

Annex IV. Consortium Roadmap after Demo Day

Step	Action
Step 1	Confirm winning project scope and team composition.
Step 2	Validate municipality/challenge owner interest and feasibility.
Step 3	Identify missing competencies and invite reserve participants or external partners if needed.
Step 4	Map potential donor, grant, investment or NEB Facility calls.
Step 5	Define lead applicant, beneficiaries, associated partners and implementation roles.
Step 6	Prepare memorandum, consortium agreement or letters of support.
Step 7	Develop application package, budget logic and work plan.
Step 8	Submit application or proceed to alternative funding/implementation route.

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